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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.
09/204,238	12/03/98	HAMILTON	AR138-X

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HM12/0919

EXAMINER

CHANG, C

ART UNIT

PAPER NUMBER

1625

DATE MAILED: 09/19/01

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Commissioner of Patents and Trademarks

Office Action Summary

Application No.

09/204,238

Applicant(s)

HAMILTON ET AL.

Examiner

Celia Chang

Art Unit

1625

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).
- Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication; even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☐ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 19 April 2001.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☐ Claim(s) 73-86 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☐ Claim(s) 73-86 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
- Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
- 11) ☐ The proposed drawing correction filed on _____ is: a) ☐ approved b) ☐ disapproved by the Examiner.
- If approved, corrected drawings are required in reply to this Office action.
- 12) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 119 and 120

- 13) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
- ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 - ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 - ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.
- 14) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e) (to a provisional application).
- a) ☐ The translation of the foreign language provisional application has been received.
- 15) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 120 and/or 121.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449) Paper No(s) _____.
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s) _____.
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 6) ☐ Other: _____.

DETAILED ACTION

1. This is a RCE of SN 09/204,238. Claims 1-72 have been canceled. Claims 73-86 are pending.

2. Claims 73-86 are provisionally rejected under the judicially created doctrine of obviousness-type double patenting as being unpatentable over claims 1-177 of copending Application No. 09/159,105 or continuation/divisional thereof in view of Feghali et al. MEDLINE 98242495. Claims 1-177 of SN 09/159,105 (see particularly claims 4, 116 and 118) are drawn to treatment of sensorineurotrophic hearing loss which is one of the neurological disorders generically embraced by the instant claims as evidenced by Feghali that sensorineural hearing loss is a neurological disorder treatable by neurotrophic factors. In the instant case, the neurotrophic factors of SN 09/159,105 generically embraced the instantly claimed compounds.

This is a provisional obviousness-type double patenting rejection.

3. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

Claims 73-86 are provisionally rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) or under the judicially created doctrine of obviousness-type double patenting as being unpatentable over the reference of the claims of Hamilton et al. US 5,801,187 (cited on 1449) or 5,846,979 or 6,218,423 or 6,274,607 in view of SN 09/159,105 and Feghali et al.

Determination of the scope and content of the prior art (MPEP §2141.01)

Hamilton et al. US 5,801,187 (see claim 15-16 and col. 5, lines 30-32 compounds), 5,846,979 (claims 1-37), 6,218,423 (claims 17-20) or 6,274,607 (claims 9-12) disclosed and claimed the instant method of treating neurological disorder with neurotrophic compounds. See specifically the generic variation of disorders being treatable by the compounds at '797 column 7, line 59-column 8, line 21.

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Ascertainment of the difference between the prior art and the claims (MPEP §2141.02)

Hamilton et al. '187, '979, '423, '607 disclosed all the elements of the claims **except** the neurotrophic agent are structurally analogous to the claimed compounds. Hamilton et al. SN 09/159,105 taught in analogous treating of neurotrophic hearing loss, the '187, '979, '423, '607 compounds/neurotrophic agents are alternative choices for the instantly claimed compounds.

Finding of prima facie obviousness—rational and motivation (MPEP§2142-2143)

One having ordinary skill in the art would be motivated to employ a structurally similar known alternative which have been shown to be successful in treating analogous neurotrophic factor related pathology for the generic neurotrophic factor related pathology as the instant claims. The agent and a reasonable expectation of success are disclosed by Hamilton SN 09/159,105 which would constitute a 102(e) reference when the claims become allowable.

4. Claims 73-86 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention.

It is unclear of what the scope of the claims are. Are they “carboxylic acid” and carboxylic acid isosters ? Or are they including “carboxylate” also. Please note that the cyclic moieties and isosteric structures in claims 73 included both “carboxylic acid” and “carboxylate” i.e. esters, amides etc. It is clearly known in the art that “carboxylic acid” bioisosteres are distinct from “carboxylate” and the concept has been well taught in the art (see King p.208 carboxylic acid group vs carboxy group and Patani (cited on 892 previously) p.3163-3164 and 3169, especially the concept of corresponding substituents on the ring system of p.3163). the claims included in the term “carboxylic acid isostere” choices of ester and amides are self contradictory and confusing.

5. Claims are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Hamilton et al. US 5,801,187 in view of King or Patani.

Claims 73-86 are rejected under the judicially created doctrine of obviousness-type double patenting as being unpatentable over claims 9-12 of U.S. Patent No. 5,801,187 in view of King or Patani.

Please note that the claims included both the “carboxylic acid” isosteres and the “carboxylate” isosteres. The “carboxylate” are prima facie obvious over the prior art US 5,801,187.

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The replacement of a carboxyl or carbonyl moiety of a biological active compound with a conventional "bioisosteric replacement" is prima facie obvious because artisan in the field is well recognized that such modification is a rational approach in drug design to gain more useful compounds. Such modified compounds under the bioisosterism principle is well recognized to have the same utility as the lead compound i.e. the claimed compounds are expected to be used for the same method as the compounds of claims 9-12 '187.


6. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Celia Chang whose telephone number is 703-308-4702. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday through Thursday from 8:30 am to 5:00 pm.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner can be reached by facsimile at (703) 308-7922 with courtesy voice message supra.

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the receptionist whose telephone number is 703-308-1235.

CCPC/Chang

Sept. 11, 2001


CEILA CHANG
PRIMARY EXAMINER
GROUP 1200-1625